

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8, 9, 11-16 and 18-29 are pending in this application. Of these pending claims, claims 1-6, 8, 9, 11-16 and 18-29 stand rejected.

The foregoing amendments and following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the outstanding office action, and are believed to place the application in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-6, 8, 9, 11-13, 16, and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by the Wafler ('059) reference.

The drying system described in claim 1 includes the following features: a media support having a first surface and a second surface; and a heater positioned spaced apart from the second surface of the media support, the second surface of the media support being located between the heater and the first surface of the media support, the heater being operatively associated with the media support through a conductive path connected to the media support, the conductive path being operable to conduct heat from the heater to the media support.

The Wafler ('059) reference discloses a preheater 16 (col. 4, lines 2-7) that appears to be integrated into platen 47 (Fig. 2). As such, the Wafler ('059) reference does not disclose that a heater is positioned spaced apart from the second surface of the media support, that the heater is operatively associated with the media support through a conductive path connected to the media support, or that the conductive path is operable to conduct heat from the heater to the media support as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-6, 8, 9, 11-13, 16, and 18 depending from claim 1 are considered patentable for at least the same reasons set forth above which state a basis for the allowance of claim 1.

Claim 19 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by the Jacobo et al. ('648) reference.

The drying system described in claim 19 includes the following features a media support having a curved surface; a plurality of heaters; and a plurality of heater extensions, each of the plurality of heater extensions being in contact with

the media support, each of the plurality of heater extensions being operatively associated with one of the plurality of heaters, wherein heat generated by the plurality of heaters is conducted to the curved surface of the media support through the plurality of heater extensions.

The Jacobe et al. ('648) reference discloses a rotatable cylindrical roller which is heated by induction within a rim portion 62 and 66 of respective rollers 56 and 58 so as to generate surface heat at a surface of rim portion 62 and 66 that is contactable with film 10 (Abstract; col. 9, line 60 through col. 10, line 27). It is noted that heating by induction was discussed at length by Applicants with reference to the Fuseya et al. ('795) reference in their response filed April 11, 2006. As such, the Jacobe et al. ('648) reference does not disclose a media support having a curved surface; a plurality of heaters; and a plurality of heater extensions, each of the plurality of heater extensions being in contact with the media support, each of the plurality of heater extensions being operatively associated with one of the plurality of heaters, wherein heat generated by the plurality of heaters is conducted to the curved surface of the media support through the plurality of heater extensions as recited in claim 19. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of claim 19 is respectfully requested.

Claim 20 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by the Suzuki et al. ('912) reference.

The method of drying an article described in claim 20 includes the following features: providing an extension connected to a support; and conducting heat from a source of heat through the extension to a surface of the support, the surface of the support being contactable with the article.

The Suzuki et al. ('912) reference discloses a laser beam printer with improved optical deflector. The laser beam printer disclosed by the Suzuki et al. ('912) reference does include a fixing device 26 (col., lines 21-28). However, the Suzuki et al. ('912) reference is completely silent regarding the details of fixing device 26. As such, the Suzuki et al. ('912) reference does not disclose providing an extension connected to a support; and conducting heat from a source of heat through the extension to a surface of the support, the surface of the support being contactable with the article as recited in claim 20. Accordingly, reconsideration

and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of claim 20 is respectfully requested.

Claim 22-25 and 27-28 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by the Siegel ('529) reference.

Claim 22 has been amended to more clearly point out that the drying system described in claim 22 includes the following features: a media support having a body portion including a surface contactable with a nonprinted side of a printed media; a heat conductive extension affixed to the body portion of the media support; and a heater affixed to the extension at a location spaced apart from the media support. Support for this amendment can be found on at least page 5, lines 26-28 of the specification.

The Siegel ('529) reference discloses a sublimation and heat transfer machine for imprinting images on mugs. The device 10 includes a cuff 28 which applies pressure and heat in order to facilitate sublimation transfer to form an image on an outside surface of mug M (Fig. 7). Cuff 28 includes a flexible electric heater 96 (col. 7, lines 26-29); a thin layer 98 which is coated toward the inside of cuff 28 (col. 7, lines 41-44) in contact with heater layer 96 (col. 7, lines 44-46); and a layer 100 of nonstick medium (col. 7, lines 44-46). A substrate 102 containing the sublimation transfer image is placed between layer 100 and mug M (Fig. 7).

After reviewing the Siegel ('529) reference, Applicants are of the opinion that the Examiner is equating cuff 28 with the media support of claim 22; heater 96 with the heater of claim 22; and layers 98 and 100 with the heat conductive extension of claim 22. However, this is difficult to determine because no explanation of the rejection of claim 22 has been provided by the Examiner. In any event, no portion of cuff 28 is contactable with a nonprinted surface (the inside surface of mug M as shown in Fig. 7) of mug M. As such, the Siegel ('529) reference does not disclose at least a media support including a body portion including a surface contactable with a nonprinted side of a printed media as recited in claim 22. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102 rejection of Claim 22 is respectfully requested.

Claim 23-25, 27, and 28 depend from claim 22 and are considered patentable for at least the same reasons set forth above which state a basis for the allowance of claim 22.

Applicants are of the opinion that the prior art rejections discussed above and presented in the pending office action are not of the type typically associated with “clearly anticipated” prior art rejections received in the past from the USPTO. As such, Applicants are proceeding under the assumption that any subsequent office action, if deemed necessary by the Examiner, will be non-final and include an explanation of each prior art rejection included therein unless it is readily apparent that the prior art rejection is a “clearly anticipated” prior art rejection.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 14 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Wafler ('059) reference in view of the Hudson ('509) reference. Claim 21 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Suzuki et al. ('912) reference. Claims 26 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Siegel ('529) reference.

Claims 14 and 15 depend from claim 1. As such, Applicants consider claims 14 and 15 patentable for at least the same reasons set forth above which state a basis for the allowance of claim 1. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection of Claims 14 and 15 is respectfully requested.

Claim 21 depends from claim 1. As such, Applicants consider claim 21 patentable for at least the reasons set forth above which state a basis for the allowance of claim 1. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection of Claim 21 is respectfully requested.

Claims 26 and 29 depend from claim 22. As such, Applicants consider claims 26 and 29 patentable for at least the same reasons set forth above which state a basis for the allowance of claim 22. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection of Claims 26 and 29 is respectfully requested.

Double Patenting

Claims 1-6, 8-9, 11-16, and 19-29 stand provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-20 of US Patent application Serial No. 11/087,307.

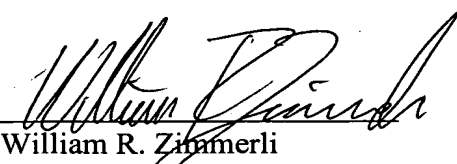
US Patent application Serial No. 11/087,307 was published on July 28, 2005, and assigned publication no. US 2005/0163036 A1. It is a divisional application of several other applications that have issued as US patents and are assigned to Matsushita Electric Industrial Co. and not assigned to Eastman Kodak Company. Applicants submit that there is no obviousness-type double patenting issue with Applicants invention and US Patent application Serial No. 11/087,307. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that, in view of the above amendments and remarks, this application is now in condition for allowance, prompt notice of which is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned in the event that a phone interview will expedite prosecution of this application towards allowance.

Respectfully submitted,


William R. Zimmerli
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Registration No. 45,287

WRZ/ld
Rochester, NY 14650
Telephone: 585-588-2758
Facsimile: 585-477-4646

If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.